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Application Serial No.: 10/574,118  
Attorney Docket No.: 27843-147A

Examiner: J. Pilkington  
Art Unit: 3656

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Original) A system, comprising:
  - (a) an anti-backlash nut having a tapered surface at one end thereof;
  - (b) a drive nut having a complementary tapered surface engaging said tapered surface on said anti-backlash nut; and
  - (c) biasing means urging said tapered surfaces together.
2. (Original) A system, as defined in claim 1, wherein: said tapered surface on said anti-backlash nut is about 30 degrees from horizontal.
3. (Original) A system, as defined in claim 1, wherein: said biasing means surrounds at least a portion of said anti-backlash nut.
4. (Withdrawn) A system, as defined in claim 1, wherein: said biasing means surrounds at least portions of said anti-backlash nut and said drive nut.
5. (Withdrawn) A system, as defined in claim 1, wherein: said biasing means abuts a surface of said anti-backlash nut opposite said tapered surface.
6. (Withdrawn) A system, as defined in claim 5, wherein: said biasing means is molded into said anti-backlash nut.
7. (Withdrawn) A system, as defined in claim 5, wherein: said biasing means is adhesively attached to said anti-backlash nut.
8. (Withdrawn) A system, as defined in claim 1, wherein: said drive nut is metallic and has a thermoplastic main drive nut molded thereinto.

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9. (Currently amended) A system, as defined in claim 1, wherein: said anti-backlash and said drive nuts are internally threaded and have ~~1. A~~ a system, comprising:

- (a) an anti-backlash nut having a tapered surface at one end thereof;
- (b) a drive nut having a complementary tapered surface engaging said tapered surface on said anti-backlash nut; and
- (c) biasing means urging said tapered surfaces together.

10. (Original) A system, as defined in claim 1, wherein: said biasing means is a torsion spring.

11. (Original) A system, as defined in claim 10 wherein: at least one end of said torsion spring is inserted into a hole defined axially in said anti-backlash nut.

12. (Original) A system, as defined in claim 10, wherein: at least one end of said torsion spring is inserted into a channel defined in an outer periphery of said anti-backlash nut.

13. (Original) A method of providing a system, comprising:

- (a) providing an anti-backlash nut having a tapered surface at one end thereof;
- (b) providing a drive nut having a complementary tapered surface engaging said tapered surface on said anti-backlash nut; and
- (c) providing biasing means urging said tapered surfaces together.

14. (Original) A method of providing a system, as defined in claim 13, further comprising: providing said tapered surface on said anti-backlash nut about 30 degrees from horizontal.

15. (Original) A method of providing a system, as defined in claim 13, further

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comprising: providing said biasing means surrounding at least a portion of said anti-backlash nut.

16. (Withdrawn) A method of providing a system, as defined in claim 13, further comprising: providing said biasing means surrounding at least portions of said anti-backlash nut and said drive nut.

17. (Withdrawn) A method of providing a system, as defined in claim 13, further comprising: providing said biasing means abutting a surface of said anti-backlash nut opposite said tapered surface.

18. (Withdrawn) A method of providing a system, as defined in claim 17, further comprising: providing said biasing means molded into said anti-backlash nut.

19. (Withdrawn) A method of providing a system, as defined in claim 17, further comprising: providing said biasing means adhesively attached to said anti-backlash nut.

20. (Withdrawn) A method of providing a system, as defined in claim 13, further comprising: providing said drive nut as metallic and having a thermoplastic main drive nut molded thereinto.

21. (Original) A method of providing a system, as defined in claim 13, further comprising: providing said anti-backlash and said drive nuts internally threaded and having axial openings therethrough to accommodate a lead screw.

22. (Original) A method of providing a system, as defined in claim 13, further comprising: providing said biasing means as a torsion spring.

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23. (Original) A method of providing a system, as defined in claim 22, further comprising: providing at least one end of said torsion spring inserted into a hole defined axially in said anti-backlash nut.

24. (Original) A method of providing a system, as defined in claim 22, further comprising: providing at least one end of said torsion spring inserted into a channel defined in an outer periphery of said anti-backlash nut.

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